

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00745 281309Z  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 MC-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-01 EB-04 SP-02  
L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /052 W  
-----281311Z 114866 /40

R 271305Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CONFIDENTIAL MASERU 745

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, LT (OFENHEIMER, ARNO)

SUBJECT: ARMS PURCHASES

1. MR. ARNO OFENHEIMER (ITALIAN NATIONAL, RESIDENT OF AUSTRIA)  
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CHEMTALL (LESOTHO) (PTY) LTD, PO BOX MS 61,  
MASERU, CALLED ON CHARGE' MAY 26 TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AND EXPLAIN  
HIS BUSINESS INTEREST IN SELLING ARMS TO LESOTHO POLICE MOBILE  
UNIT. MR. OFENHEIMER HAS JUST OPENED AN OFFICE HERE. HIS MAIN  
OFFICE IS IN JOHANNESBURG WITH A SISTER FIRM CHEMTALL RHEAX  
(S.A.) LTD. BOTH THE SOUTH AFRICA AND PESOTHO COMPANIES BELONG  
TO A HOLDING COMPANY TRANSROPA IN VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN.

2. MR. OFENHEIMER SAID HE HOLDS THE DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS IN  
LESOTHO FOR STEYR-DAIMLER-PUCH, MANUFACTURERS OF THE STEYR  
MANNLICHER SSG SNIPING RIFLE. HE SAID HE HAS SOLD TWELVE SSGN  
RIFLES TO THE PMC ALREADY AND HOPES TO LAND A LARGER ORDER FOR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00745 281309Z

THEEE WEAPONS ( THE 400 MAN PMU IS PRESENTLY ARMED WITH BELGIAN  
FN RIFLES). OFENHEIMER ALSO IS IN TOUCH WITH SMITH/WESSON AND  
COLT CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF FILLING AN ORDER FOR SIDEARMS  
AND OTHER WEAPONS FOR PMU. HE REQUESTED COPIES OF FORM DSP-83  
RPT 83 FOR USE IN CMNNECTION WITH ARMS PURCHASES FROM U.S.  
BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE THIS FORM ON FILES AND REFERRED HIM  
TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG.

3. OFENHEIMER SAYS HE ALSO REPRESENTS MANUFACTURER (POSSIBLY ALSO STSYR-DAIMLER-PUCH) OF PINZGAUER 4 AND 6 WHEELED MILITARY CROSS COUNTRY PERSONNEL TRANSPORT VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES WERE DEMONSTRATED RECENTLY FOR PMU HERE IM MASERU. HE HAS SOLD ONE PINZGAUER 4 WHEEL VEHICLE TO PMU FOR TRIALS AND SAYS HE HAS AN ORDER TO DELIVER FORTY MORE.

4. OFENHEIMER PRESENTED POLICE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE NO. //05/CERTX11-94 DATED MARCH 2, 1977 ON INTERPOL LETTERHEAD SIGNED BY COMMANDING OFFICER, LESOTHO CID, COLONEL R. MATELA. CERTIFICATE STATES OFENHEIMER IS HOLDER OF FIREARMS DEALERS CERTIFICATE NO. 5 AND HAS BEEN GRANTED AUTHORITY TO IMPORT CERTAIN FIREARMS INTO LESOTHO FROM ANY COUNTRY. OFENHEIMER DID NOT SHOW CHARGE' TABULATION OF TYPES OF ARMS HE IS PERMITTED TO IMPORT.

5. OFENHEIMEC SAYS HE IS INTERESTED IN ARMS SALES TO GOVTS OF BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND AS WELL. HE SAID HE HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES IN MOVING WEAPONS THROUGH SA TO LESOTHO.

STOKES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MASERU00745  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770191-0931  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MASERU  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770510/aaaaaieg.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 742ec486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2315274  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMS PURCHASES  
**TAGS:** MASS, LT, (OFENHEIMER, ARNO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/742ec486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009